

**DELAWARE COMMISSION OF VETERANS AFFAIRS
MEETING MINUTES
JANUARY 27, 2009**

Members Present: Lardizzone, Thompson, Corsa, Evans, Kitson, Smith, and Spitzfaden

Members Excused: Carroll, Harden, Lank, Newstadt, Timberman and Wasson

Staff Present: Davila and Reid

Guests: Rep. Earl Jaques (House Veterans Affairs Committee Chairman), Al Carter and Chris Portante (SOS), Eugene Hebert (MOWW), Ed Moczulski (LP Lo-DEL), Bill McMullen (AF Sergeants Association), Ron Sarg (MOAA), and David Rich (DOL)

The meeting opened with the Pledge of Allegiance to our Nation's Flag.

Chairman Lardizzone opened the meeting by introducing guests.

Rep. Jaques introduced himself and indicated that he is a veteran and he has an open door policy and is here to help every veteran in this state. He indicated that there was a new bill introduced for a Gold Star license plate.

Mr. Hebert reported that MOWW participated in "Wreaths Across America" and supports the Youth Leadership Conference sponsored by the Freedom Foundation at Valley Forge. This year's conference will be held March 19-22, 2009. Their organization has approved the purchase of seals for each cemetery and the Delaware Veterans Home.

Mr. Sarg reported that they have their annual fundraiser coming up on February 21, 2009, at Uno's in Dover to support their scholarship program.

Mr. Rich reported they have already had two meetings for their "Veterans Stand Down/Employment Expo". This will be a two-day event, held on a Friday and Saturday in October, the dates are still tentative, but they are looking at the third or fourth weekend in October. He provided a tentative outline of how the event is being planned. Their next meeting is scheduled for March 16, 2009, and a logistics meeting is scheduled for February 4, 2009.

Mr. Reid provided the Delaware Veterans Home monthly update for January and answered questions.

**MOTION BY KITSON TO ACCEPT DECEMBER COMMISSION MEETING MINUTES,
SECONDED BY CORSA, MOTION CARRIED.**

COMMITTEE REPORTS

CEMETERY COMMITTEE

Mr. Davila reported that the 99-year master plan for the Cemeteries has been reviewed and there maybe some question in reference to the Southern Cemetery. He continued to report on the details concerning the current and proposed improvements and construction.

LEGISLATIVE AFFAIRS

Vice-Chairman Thompson reported that when they spoke with Governor-elect Markell, they were asked to schedule a meeting after he was sworn in and his cabinet was selected. Now that this has been accomplished, the committee is attempting to schedule a meeting with him.

PERSONNEL

The Administrator position is still frozen at the Southern Cemetery and one of the grounds employees has sustained a serious injury and may not be returning.

ORGANIZATIONAL REPORTS

Spitzfaden (MOAA) – Asked everyone to support the MOAA fundraiser at Uno's in Dover.

Kitson (VFW) – Reported that the Red, White and Blue Gala will be held this Saturday at the Dover Sheraton.

Evans (American Legion) – Reported that their National Vice-Commander for this region will be visiting this weekend to dedicate the new building at Post 24 in Dagsboro.

Thompson (MCL) – Reported that there is a Department meeting scheduled for the last Saturday in January.

Lardizzone (DAV) – They have two upcoming events planned: a bus trip to Washington, DC on May 9, 2009, and "A Day at the Blue Rocks" on May 28, 2009.

Smith (AMVETS) – The Department will be meeting in March.

NEW BUSINESS

Mr. Davila informed the Commissioners that there is now a form to be filled out for posting future events on the Commission website.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

MOTION BY KITSON TO ACCEPT THE DELAWARE VETERANS HOME DONATION LIST, SECONDED BY THOMPSON, MOTION CARRIED.

Commissioner Corsa inquired if anyone was reaching out to the community in reference to the donation list and Mr. Reid outlined the efforts that have been made.

ITEMS FOR THE GOOD AND WELFARE OF THE ORGANIZATION

Mr. Carter spoke about the current budget and indicated that the only State positions they are currently authorized to fill are the ones at the Delaware Veterans Home. There is every indication this trend will continue for the remainder of the fiscal year. He also informed the Commission that the pavilion

project has changed from a Title 29 project to a Friends project and consequently some of the restrictions placed on the process because of the way the State does business, have been lifted. He indicated that they (Tony Davila, Cam Yorkston, and Al Carter) met with the contractors and some of the bids have since come down. Hopefully that portion of the process will be ready by the next Friends of the Veterans Home meeting and a decision can be made.

Commissioner Corsa expressed his concerns about the prospective cuts to veterans programs and discussion followed.

DATE OF NEXT MEETING: FEBRUARY 24, 2009 (10:00 AM)

**LOCATION: Robbins Bldg, 802 Silver Lake Blvd, Suite 100
Dover, DE**

ADJOURNED